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Notice of some Vital Statistics of the United States, in a Letter to the Hon. Horace Mann, by MR. EDWARD JARVIS, of Dorchester, Massachusetts, United States, dated 22nd April, 1845. Abstracted and compared with the Statistics of England and Wales. By THOS. LAYCOCK, M.D.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, at Cambridge, 23rd June, 1845.]

THE total white population of the States in 1840 was 14,261,638. This population was thus distributed according to age and latitude—

| Ages. | NORTHERN DIVISION. | MIDDLE DIVISION. | SOUTHERN DIVISION. |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin. | New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Columbia, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky. | North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee. |
| | Lat. 41° to 46°. | Lat. 36° to 42°. | Lat. 29° to 36°. |
| 0— 5 | 721,202 | 1,244,375 | 509,990 |
| 5— 10 | 622,307 | 1,031,403 | 400,680 |
| 10— 15 | 554,918 | 830,214 | 329,028 |
| 15— 20 | 538,768 | 739,030 | 271,141 |
| 20— 30 | 955,589 | 1,210,365 | 443,184 |
| 30— 40 | 614,337 | 799,298 | 272,135 |
| 40— 50 | 399,909 | 471,283 | 167,622 |
| 50— 60 | 246,442 | 276,959 | 96,129 |
| 60— 70 | 146,096 | 156,410 | 52,021 |
| 70— 80 | 77,761 | 52,624 | 21,237 |
| 80— 90 | 23,001 | 16,599 | 6,007 |
| 90—100 | 2,584 | 2,221 | 985 |
| 100 and } upwards } | 167 | 371 | 245 |
| Total.... | 4,900,081 | 6,791,152 | 2,570,404 |

The proportions of these quinquennial ages reduced to the proportion of 100,000, is as follows:—

| Ages. | Northern Division. | Middle Division. | Southern Division. | England and Wales. |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 0— 5 | 14,718 | 18,323 | 18,840 | 13,240 |
| 5— 10 | 12,679 | 15,031 | 15,587 | 11,970 |
| 10— 15 | 11,324 | 12,224 | 12,800 | 10,890 |
| 15— 20 | 10,995 | 10,862 | 10,540 | 9,970 |
| 20— 30 | 19,501 | 17,822 | 17,202 | 17,800 |
| 30— 40 | 12,531 | 10,738 | 10,589 | 12,890 |
| 40— 50 | 8,159 | 6,939 | 6,521 | 9,590 |
| 50— 60 | 5,029 | 4,078 | 3,739 | 6,450 |
| 60— 70 | 2,981 | 2,303 | 2,023 | 4,400 |
| 70— 80 | 1,586 | 907 | 826 | 2,160 |
| 80— 90 | 469 | 244 | 233 | 590 |
| 90—100 | 52 | 32 | 38 | |
| 100 and } upwards } | 3 | 5.5 | 9 | 50 |

Or to reduce these numbers still further

| Age. | Northern Division. | Middle Division. | Southern Division. | England and Wales. |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Under 20 | 49,716 | 56,440 | 57,767 | 46,000 |
| 20 to 40 | 32,032 | 28,560 | 27,791 | 30,690 |
| 40 to 60 | 13,188 | 11,017 | 10,260 | 16,040 |
| 60 to 80 | 4,567 | 3,200 | 2,849 | 6,560 |
| 80 & upwards | 424 | 281½ | 280 | |
| Approximate } average age | 23·29 yrs. | 22 yrs. | 19·44 yrs. | |
| Medium age.... | 20 yrs. 1½ mths. | 17 yrs. 4 mths. | 16 yrs. 3 mths. | |

The decrement per cent. of the white population of the United States as compared with England is as follows:—

| Ages. | Northern Division. | Middle Division. | Southern Division. | England and Wales. |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 5 | 13·71 | 16·31 | 21·43 | } 17·55 14·10 |
| 5 — 10 | 10·82 | 18·53 | 17·88 | |
| 10 — 15 | 2·91 | 10·99 | 17·59 | |
| 15 — 20 | Increment. 77·36 | Increment. 63·77 | Increment. 63·45 | } 28·33 25·59 33·26 |
| 20 — 30 | Decrement. 35·71 | Decrement. 38·09 | Decrement. 38·6 | |
| 30 — 40 | 34·9 | 37·14 | 38·4 | |
| 40 — 50 | 38·37 | 41·21 | 42·65 | 32·14 |
| 50 — 60 | 40·71 | 43·49 | 47·9 | 50·9 |
| 60 — 70 | 46·77 | 59·96 | 59·19 | 73·02 |
| 70 — 80 | 70·3 | 73·44 | 71·7 | 91·77 |
| 80 — 90 | 88·76 | 86·61 | 83·6 | |
| 90 — 100 } and upwards } | 93·53 | 71·33 | 75·12 | |

Sanitary Statistics of Dorchester and Brookline, Massachusetts: and of Louisville and other Towns on the Mississippi.

The deaths in Dorchester from 1817 to 1844 were 1767, and they took place at different ages, in different conditions of life as follows:—

RATIO PER CENT.

| Ages. | Farmers. | Merchants. | Mechanics. | Labourers. | Total. |
|----------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| under 1 year | 9·0 | 15·45 | 22·19 | 23·78 | 18·44 |
| 1 and under 2 | 3·4 | 6·11 | 6·48 | 7·60 | 6·22 |
| 2 to 5 | 6·44 | 7·64 | 8·22 | 8·15 | 7·75 |
| 5 — 10 | 0·75 | 4·24 | 4·23 | 4·2 | 3·73 |
| 10 — 20 | 4·16 | 6·45 | 6·48 | 3·7 | 5·32 |
| 20 — 30 | 11·74 | 10·0 | 8·47 | 10·33 | 10·0 |
| 30 — 40 | 4·92 | 11·71 | 8·72 | 10·13 | 9·56 |
| 40 — 50 | 7·95 | 8·65 | 6·73 | 8·96 | 8·2 |
| 50 — 60 | 9·47 | 6·95 | 7·48 | 7·4 | 7·58 |
| 60 — 70 | 14·39 | 7·47 | 8·47 | 5·65 | 8·2 |
| 70 — 80 | 12·50 | 9·0 | 8·47 | 4·85 | 8·2 |
| 80 — 90 | 12·87 | 5·09 | 3·24 | 3·70 | 5·43 |
| 90 and upwards | 2·27 | 1·18 | 0·74 | 1·35 | 1·3 |

PER CENTAGE OF DEATHS TO TOTAL DEATHS.

| Age. | Dorchester, Massachusetts. | Sheffield in 1840—41. | Devon. |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Under 5 | 32.41 | 48.60 | 30.59 |
| 5 to 10 | 3.73 | 4.80 | 4.31 |
| 10 — 20 | 5.32 | 5.85 | 5.28 |
| 20 — 30 | 10.00 | 6.10 | 6.87 |
| 30 — 40 | 9.56 | 5.97 | 5.78 |
| 40 — 50 | 8.20 | 7.02 | 5.78 |
| 50 — 60 | 7.58 | 5.10 | 6.63 |
| 60 — 70 | 8.20 | 6.73 | 10.22 |
| 70 — 80 | 8.20 | 5.89 | 13.50 |
| 80 — 90 | 5.43 | 1.71 | 9.09 |
| 90 and upwards } | 1.30 | 0.12 | 1.63 |

From this table drawn up, as regards Dorchester, by Mr. Jarvis, it does not appear that proportions of deaths at the age specified, are to the number living at these ages, but rather to the number of deaths in each class; as for example, of 100 deaths of the farming class 12 were at ages between 70 and 80, while of the same number of deaths in the class of mechanics only 3 were of those ages.

The average age at death was as follows:—

| | Number of Deaths. | | Average Age at Death. |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Farmers | 264 | | 45 years 8½ months. |
| Merchants, &c. | 589 | | 33 „ 3 „ |
| Mechanics | 401 | | 29 „ 6¾ „ |
| Labourers | 513 | | 27 „ 5½ „ |
| Total and average | 1,767 | | 32 6½ |

The sanitary condition of Dorchester is, according to these results, closely analogous to that of the large towns of England.

The number of deaths in middle adult age, shows that there is an accession of an immigrant adult population, as occurs also in the large towns of England; and the smaller proportion of aged persons compared with Devon, is in favour of an opinion that the salubrity of Dorchester in Massachusetts, is inferior to that of the county of Devon. The larger proportion of the deaths of aged persons among the better conditioned classes of society in Dorchester, shows also, that as with us the private hygiene of the people has a very considerable influence on the mortality. Thus 42 persons of the total deaths were aged above 60, in the farmer class, while only 15 per cent. of the deaths in labouring class attained that age.